fent of their legiflature. He therefore applied to parliament, who paffed an act for that purpose, limiting the number to be brought in and the time they were to continue. In like manner is his majefty reftrained in every part of the empire. He poffeffes, indeed, the executive power of the laws in every ftate; but they are the laws of the particular ftate which he is to adminifter within that ftate, and not thofe of any one within the limits of another. Every ftate muft judge for itfelf the number of armed men which they may fafely truft among them, of whom they are to confift, and under what reftrictions they fhall be laid.

To render thefe proceedings ftill more criminal againft our laws, inftead of fubjecting the military to the civil powers, his majefty has expressly made the civil fubordinate to the military. But can his majefty thus put down all law under his feet? Can he erect a power fuperior to that which erected himfelf? He has done it indeed by force; but let him remember that force cannot give right.

That thefe are our grievances which we have thus laid before his majefty, with that freedom of language and fentiment which becomes a free people claiming their rights, as derived from the laws of nature, and not as the gift of their chief magiftrate: Let thofe flatter who fear; it is not an American art. To give praife which is not due might be well from the venal, but would ill befeem thofe who are afferting the rights of human nature. They know, and will therefore fay, that kings are the fervants, not the proprietors of the people. Open your breaft, fire, to liberal and expanded thought. Let not the name of George the third be a blot in the page of hiftory. You are furrounded by Britifh counfellors, but remember that they are parties. You have no minifters for American affairs, becaufe you have none taken from among us, nor amenable to the laws on which they are to give you advice. It behoves you, therefore, to think and to act for yourfelf and your people. The great principles of right and wrong are legible to every reader; to purfue them requires not the aid of many counfellors. The whole art of goverament

confifts in the art of being honeft. Only aim to do your duty, and mankind will give you credit where you fail. No longer perfevere in facrificing the rights of one part of the empire to the inordinate defires of another; but deal out to all equal and impartial right. Let no act be paffed by any one legiflature which may infringe on the rights and liberties of another. This is the important poft in which fortune has placed you, holding the balance of a great, if a well poifed empire. This, fire, is the advice of your great American council, on the obfervance of which may perhaps depend your felicity and future fame, and the prefervation of that harmony which alone can continue both to Great Britain and America the reciprocal advantages of their connection. It is neither our wifh, nor our intereft, to feparate from her. We are willing, on our part, to facrifice every thing which reafon can afk to the reftoration of that tranquility for which all muft wifh. On their part, let them be ready to eftablifh union and a generous plan. Let them name their terms, but let them be juft. Accept of every commercial preference it is in our power to give for fuch things as we can raife for their ufe, or they make for ours. But let them not think to exclude us from going to other markets to difpofe of thofe commodities which they cannot ufe, or to fupply thofe wants which they cannot fupply. Still lefs let it be propofed that our properties within our own territories fhall be taxed or regulated by any power on earth but our own. The God who gave us life gave us liberty at the fame time; the hand of force may deftroy, but cannot disjoin them. This, fire, is our laft, our determined refolution; and that you will be pleafed to interpofe with that efficacy which your earneft endeavours may enfure to procure redrefs of thefe our great grievances, to quiet the minds of your fubjects in Britifh America, againft any apprehenfions of future encroachment, to eftablifh fraternal love and harmony through the whole empire, and that thefe may continue to the lateft ages of time, is the fervent prayer of all Britifh America!

Thomas Jefferson's Statement on Rights of Colonists (1774)

A contemporary edition (1774) of Jefferson's pamphlet, A Summary View of the Rights of British America, described as "the boldest declaration of American rights that had yet been written." He voiced the noble sentiment which he later expressed in the Declaration of Independence: "The God who gave us Life, gave us Liberty at the same time.

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